

REMARKS

Reconsideration in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested. Moreover, the applicants have reviewed the First Office Action of April 21, 2003, and submit that this paper is responsive to all points raised therein.

Initially, please note that as of January 3, 2003, the Power of Attorney and the Correspondence Address for the above-listed patent application were changed to the undersigned and the law firm of Polsinelli Shalton & Welte. Accordingly, please direct all correspondence to:

Polsinelli, Shalton & Welte
ATTN.: Jerome R. Smith, Jr.
700 West 47th Street, Suite 1000
Kansas City, MO 64112

A copy of the correspondence changing the Power of Attorney and the Correspondence Address (including the requisite transmittal sheets), as filed on January 3, 2003 is submitted herewith.

Claims 9-13 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by Weber (U.S. Patent No. 3,670,413).

Claims 9 and 12 have been further amended to recite that the flexible members of the receiver include engaging or first portions in communication with ends or second portions. These engaging portions and ends, and first and second portions, are separate portions of the flexible members in an operative relationship to each other. The engaging or first portions will move to the outward position when pressure is applied to the ends or second portions. As a result of this structure for the flexible members, the blade firmly engages the stub, and can be placed onto and removed from this firm engagement simply and quickly, and absent any tools, or

“tools free”. The flexible members are such that pressure, typically from a user’s thumbs, is applied to on the second or end portions of the flexible members, moving the first or engaging portions clear of the stub, allowing placement or removal of the blade with respect to the stub.

Weber teaches a blade 12 and spring clips 13, that mount the blade 12 to an insulting hub. The spring clips 13 are single strips, that move outward then inward when the blade 12 is being mounted or dismounted from the insulating hub. These spring clips 13 lack ends or second portions configured for movement when pressured, as the blade 12, by virtue of the shape and material of the spring clips 13, is designed to be simply pushed onto and pulled off of the insulating hub.

This is in contrast to the claimed invention, where the claimed flexible members allow the blade to remain firmly engaged to the stub, such that the blade can not be simply pulled off of the stub. This is because such movement is prevented by the claimed flexible members, that will only permit blade removal from the stub when pressure is applied to one portion of the flexible member, that causes another portion to move to the outward position, such that it is clear of the stub.

Weber lacks the claimed flexible members. Accordingly, Weber fails to show the claimed invention and therefore, claims 9 and 12 are not anticipated by Weber under 35 USC 102(b).

Moreover, the curved shape of the spring clips 13 allows the blade 12 of the Weber device to be easily attached to and removed from the hub, as well as allowing significant “play” or slippage of the blade 12 with respect to the hub. This is in contrast to the claimed invention, where the flexible members facilitate a firm and secure engagement to the stub, with minimal, if any “play”, that will not allow the blade to be simply pulled off of the stub. Since Weber does

not teach or suggest the need for a firm and secure attachment of the blade to the hub, there is no motivation for the skilled artisan to provide Weber with the claimed flexible members.

Accordingly, claims 9 and 12 are also non-obvious in view of Weber.


Since claims 9 and 12 are neither anticipated by Weber under 35 USC 102(b), nor obvious in view of Weber, claims 10 and 11, and 13, respectively dependent thereon, are also allowable over this cited art for the same reasons. These claims further distinguish the invention from this cited art.

Should the Examiner have any question or comment as to the form, content or entry of this paper, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below. Similarly, if there are any further issues yet to be resolved to advance the prosecution of this application to issue, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned counsel.

Allowance of all pending claims, 9-13, is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

POLSINELLI, SHALTON & WELTE



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